

REMARKS

Claims 29, 31-38, 40-42, 44-55, 57, and 58 are present in the application and pending on the merits. By this Response, Applicants have amended claims 29 and 42. No new matter has been added.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 29, 31-38, 40-42, 44-55, 57, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, included in the Office Action. Office Action at 3. As explained below, claims 29 and 42 have been amended, and they more clearly comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

I. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 29, 31-38, 40-42, 44-55, 57, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Office Action at 2. The rejection asserts that in claims 29 and 42, the recitation of "a plurality of strip-like elements having terminal parts," is ambiguous because it is unclear whether this recitation excludes "plural stretches of a single continuous cord." See id.

By this Response, Applicants have amended claims 29 and 42 so that they each recite, in pertinent part, that "the plurality of strip-like elements [are] physically distinct from one another . . ." These amendments are supported at least at page 24, lines 29-35, of the specification and more clearly distinguish this portion of claims 29 and 42 from "a plurality of stretches belonging to the same cord, which substantially extend from bead to bead and are joined together." Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this portion of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The rejection also asserts that the portion of claim 42 that recites “turning up ends of a fraction of the elongated elements” is ambiguous because it is “not clear if this ‘fraction’ is in reference to the elongated elements that make up a single ply/layer or could be read as relative to all the elements that make up all the plies in the tire . . .”

Office Action at 3.

Applicants have amended claim 42 so that it recites, in pertinent part, “disposing each elongated element on a toroidal support to form a carcass ply of a carcass structure . . .” Thus, the “fraction” is more clearly related to a single ply. This amendment also obviates the rejection’s assertion regarding the lack of antecedent basis for reciting “the carcass ply” later in claim 42. See Office Action at 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this portion of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

II. Conclusion

The Office Action indicates that claims 29, 31-38, 40-42, 44-55, 57, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Office Action at 3. For at least the reasons outlined previously herein, all of the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Thus, all of the pending claims should be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the claim rejection, and allowance of claims 29, 31-38, 40-42, 44-55, 57, and 58.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants’ undersigned attorney at (404) 653-6559.

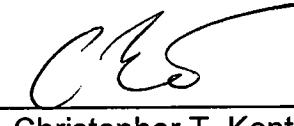
Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action contains a number of assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 13, 2011

By: 
Christopher T. Kent
Reg. No. 48,216